In the absence of Mr. Haniff (Malaysia), Ms. Critchlow (Guyana), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 69: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*) (A/66/87)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/66/156, A/66/161, A/66/203, A/66/204, A/66/216, A/66/225, A/66/253, A/66/254, A/66/262, A/66/264, A/66/265, A/66/268-272, A/66/274, A/66/283-285, A/66/289, A/66/290, A/66/293, A/66/310, A/66/314, A/66/325, A/66/330, A/66/342 and Add.1, and A/66/372)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*) (A/66/267, A/66/322, A/66/343, A/66/358, A/66/361, A/66/365, A/66/374 and A/66/518; A/C.3/66/2)

1. **Mr. Jerandi** (Tunisia) said that the popular revolution in Tunisia reflected, fundamentally, the desire to build a society based on the modern ideals of citizenship and the universal values of freedom, justice and equality where the dignity and rights of all were guaranteed. It was a decisive moment in history that allowed Tunisia to reclaim its place among the community of nations which held those common values dear. The consecration of human rights and the defence of public freedoms were one of Tunisia's main priorities.

2. The transitional Government, determined to make those values a reality and fulfil the goals of the revolution, had adopted a rights-based approach including amnesty for all political prisoners of the old regime, dissolution of the political police, and accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to major international human rights instruments. Similarly, local offices of international human rights bodies and agencies had been opened in Tunis.

3. The Government was committed to accelerating judicial reform, to bring the judiciary into line with standards for fighting corruption and bringing to justice those responsible for the killing and torture of protesters and the plundering of national assets. It had thus set up two independent national commissions to investigate cases of corruption and embezzlement and of violations of the rights of Tunisians during the revolution.

4. Tunisia upheld the universal values of solidarity, justice and cooperation and called on the entire international community to support its efforts to recover its assets which had been misappropriated by the ousted President and his family and which the Tunisian people needed to cover the socio-economic costs of the transition to democracy. It also urged all States to which lawful extradition requests had been made to hand over the perpetrators of crimes against the Tunisian people so that they could face the courts in fair trials with safeguards for the rights of the defence in line with international instruments.

5. The country's commitment to human rights was made reality for Tunisian citizens on 23 October with the first free and transparent elections in its history to elect a constituent assembly, which would draft a new constitution and designate a leader until general elections were held. The massive voter turnout, which had exceeded 80 per cent in many polling stations, was an illustration of the people's thirst for democracy, justice and freedom. He commended the United Nations and international observers for supporting and ensuring a smoothly-run electoral process and extended warmest thanks to the Secretary-General for his unwavering trust in the Tunisian people.

6. **Ms. Macklin** (Australia) said that the Arab spring had been a reminder of the truly universal nature of human rights, as millions sought to exercise a right that could often be taken for granted. Australia continued its efforts to realize human rights at home and abroad. For persons with disabilities, the dignity of equal opportunity remained out of reach. After ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it had set out to ensure that those rights were accessible to every Australian with a disability via a national strategy to address barriers to equality and fundamental reform of disability care and support. The Government had also begun to lay the foundations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme to ensure security for persons with disabilities and give them the opportunity to participate fully in the society.

7. Indigenous Australians were of special importance to Australia and humanity, and the

Government considered the disadvantages that they faced to be unacceptable. It was working to close the gap with new efforts to correct decades of underinvestment in social services. To achieve that, it was necessary to work in partnership with Indigenous Australians, and the Government had taken an important step towards that with the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples. It had also established bodies to address the trauma experienced by Indigenous Australians, give them a national voice in policy and programme development, and provide advice on the recognition of Indigenous Australians in the National Constitution. Her country supported the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and was working closely with Member States ahead of the 2014 World Conference.

8. Australia respected and acknowledged progress made regionally and worldwide. Recent developments in Myanmar had been heartening, but much remained to be done and Australia stood ready to play its part. It welcomed the Libyan National Transition Council's commitment to respecting democracy, human rights and the rule of law. However, there were daily reminders that the rights of citizens were violated. Australia urged the Syrian Arab Republic to immediately end the ongoing brutality against its own people.

9. Her Government also urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to respect freedom of association and expression and to protect the human rights of all. It called on the Fiji Interim Government to hold free and fair elections to ensure a return to democracy and stood ready to assist in that process. Human rights were not yet enjoyed universally, but progress had been significant and swift — that was something to be proud of and should reinforce the collective resolve to build a better future for all.

10. **Mr. Khan** (Indonesia) said that his country's Second National Action Plan on human rights had consisted of six pillars for improving the delivery of human rights; the Third National Action Plan (2010-2015) built on the achievements of the first two and included a new pillar: to provide communication services more effectively to the people. Priority was thus being given to strengthening local committees to bring them in line with international human rights standards.

11. Indonesia recognized that migration could be an essential component of development and prosperity in all the countries involved. However, it was concerned at the increasing intolerance towards migrants and their vulnerability to a number of crimes, as well as the fact that irregular migrants often feared to seek legal protection and were denied enjoyment of basic social rights. It was essential to enhance joint efforts to encourage all countries of origin, transit and destination to establish mechanisms to manage migration better and improve the protection of migrants.

12. Indonesia agreed with the need for greater national priority and international and regional cooperation in combating trafficking in persons. The Government had been implementing various measures to protect women and children from trafficking through national plans of action. Regionally, Indonesia, Australia and other neighbours had played important roles in promoting cooperation to combat trafficking, notably through the Bali Process.

13. His country supported the need to integrate a rights-based approach to disaster management, including the rights of internally displaced and the right to adequate housing, especially in post-disaster rehabilitation. As a country prone to natural disaster, Indonesia was ready to share its best practices in disaster management and reduction. Those had been applied following the disasters that had struck in recent years, with a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme that had been conducted with an approach based on humanity, impartiality and neutrality and in the spirit of "build back better" and "delivering as one". Lastly, he pointed out that in October 2011, Indonesia had promulgated a law ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reflecting the country's strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

14. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that human rights were not a cultural product that could be exported by one country to another, but were a universal concept and were indivisible. Her country had recently announced a series of legislative reforms to ensure a better future for its people. An act authorizing the establishment of parties had been passed, under which 15 new political parties had been formed. A committee for the drafting of a new constitution had been established, in keeping with constitutional precepts. The state of emergency had

been lifted, and a law on peaceful assembly had been adopted. There was also a new information act, guaranteeing freedom of information and protection for journalists. A number of measures and resolutions had been introduced in record time, which would allow the people to enjoy democracy, political plurality and human rights, making it an example to be followed regionally and internationally.

15. The recent Occupy movement demonstrations and similar protests in Europe called for redistribution of wealth and a more equitable society, social and economic rights and the reduction of poverty. Her country was concerned by the use of brutal force by law enforcement officials to silence the young demonstrators.

16. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action called for effective international measures to guarantee the human rights of people under foreign occupation and for their legal protection, in accordance with international law. Continued foreign occupation was in itself a serious violation, and the Syrian Arab Republic called for the immediate cessation of the occupation of Palestine. Appropriate measures must be taken to counter the many horrors perpetrated by Israel violating human rights in the occupied territories, ranging from the persecution of human rights defenders and detention of legally elected persons to the eviction of occupied populations from their homes and deprivation of access to food and drinking water.

17. **Mr. Chuquihuara** (Peru) said that his country had acceded to and ratified the main United Nations human rights instruments and, as a founding member of the Human Rights Council, it had volunteered to be one of the first countries considered under the universal periodic review (UPR) mechanism. Peru had also worked with special procedures mandate holders and had participated actively in the review processes of the Human Rights Council. His country hoped that the Council would be given adequate funding for unforeseen situations arising from emergency decisions and resolutions and would continue to support any process aimed at enhancing its work.

18. A number of factors such as extreme poverty impeded the full enjoyment of human rights for millions of people around the world. States should step up their efforts to tackle those problems and meet internationally undertaken commitments. Cooperation and capacity-building enhanced the effectiveness of the fight against extreme poverty, and Peru called on States, the United Nations system and international financial institutions to boost cooperation and capacity-building efforts in that field, particularly in developing countries. In view of the importance of guaranteeing universal access to social services to combat extreme poverty, it was vital to implement social protection measures based on the principles of equality, participation and transparency and respect for national legal frameworks and international human rights standards. That would empower people living in extreme poverty and include them in decision-making processes.

19. Peru was concerned about the human rights of migrants and regretted profoundly the adoption of laws criminalizing irregular migration, which affected the rights and dignity of migrants. It also opposed the taxation of remittances made by migrant workers and called on Member States to abolish such measures, which could exacerbate the migration issue, encourage human trafficking and slavery and compound the poverty of migrants and their families. The rise in xenophobia and discrimination against foreigners as a result of the recent economic and financial crises was also a cause for concern. Firmly committed to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and building an inclusive and fairer society, Peru had recently promulgated a law on the right to prior consultation of indigenous peoples, which was in line with ILO Convention No. 169. Democratic societies were essential for promoting social inclusion, thereby guaranteeing active citizen participation and the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

20. **Mr. Omer** (Sudan) said that his country had ratified a number of international human rights treaties and conventions and had incorporated them into domestic legislation. The Sudan had met all its obligations concerning the overall peace agreement and the creation of the State of South Sudan and had also signed the Doha agreement for peace in Darfur under the auspices of Qatar. The international community must ensure that those agreements were respected by the rebels in order to maintain the ceasefire and protect human rights.

21. He wished to correct some information in the statement by the representative of the European Union. There had been positive developments on the ground that contradicted the claims of a lack of stability. Peace had begun to take root, as mentioned by the Secretary-

General in the Security Council. It had been a military rebellion, not a popular movement, which had contravened the peace agreement and had led regular forces to take up arms to protect civilians. Concerning the Blue Nile region, he pointed out that the elected governor had been a rebel, which had led to the fall of the Khartoum-backed government, and the authorities had wanted to reinstate peace and stability. The displaced persons had since returned and were leading normal lives once more.

22. Human rights and freedom of expression were enacted by legislation and guaranteed by the Constitution. The Sudan had communication media and press, though there was only one State television channel. There were no laws preventing freedom of expression. It welcomed the decision by the Human Rights Council to end the mandate of the independent expert as that confirmed that the human rights situation was improving. His delegation regretted that those positive developments had not been emphasized in the report submitted to the Committee.

23. The Sudan was committed to continuing cooperation through the United Nations human rights mechanisms to reinforce respect for human rights. In view of the universality of human rights, economic, social and cultural rights should be given the same significance as civil and political rights. That would require the creation of special mechanisms. Tolerance should be promoted to reinforce intercultural and interfaith dialogue, avoiding any attempts to impose certain value systems or discredit others. His delegation attached great importance to the universal periodic review (UPR) mechanism and would continue to cooperate in that area. More attention should be given to the most vulnerable members of society. All countries faced difficulties in protecting human rights. The Human Rights Council would constitute a common heritage that would guide States in their cooperation to promote and protect human rights.

24. **Ms. Kolontai** (Belarus) said that her country conducted a policy aimed at ensuring well-being through social guarantees and political freedoms. There had been significant success, and a number of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had already been achieved, including 100 per cent literacy and poverty reduction. Those efforts had been noted by the international community, especially during the UPR exercise in 2010. The country had approved over two-thirds of the recommendations and was already implementing them through a comprehensive plan involving government agencies and civil society bodies with the requisite expertise.

25. To integrate women into the country's social, economic and cultural life, the Government had adopted a national plan for gender equality 2011-2015. Based on assessments by UNICEF, its measures to lower infant mortality had reduced the rate to 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births. Six national reports had been submitted to treaty bodies, and Belarus was actively working on a draft law on accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Technical assistance from United Nations human rights bodies was required to implement the UPR recommendations. Belarus was interested in obtaining such assistance for projects in that field.

26. Her country had always believed that United Nations human rights activities should be implemented through cooperation and true dialogue among Member States and should aim to strengthen their potential to carry out their obligations to protect human rights in the interest of all people. Belarus had sent a letter inviting the High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit the country as proof of its firm commitment to working constructively with international human rights bodies.

27. There could be no hierarchy in human rights-they were all interlinked, complementary and indivisible. Human rights bodies must follow a balanced approach. Certain countries should stop trying to be mentors to other sovereign States and instead focus on their own internal problems in promoting the human rights of their citizens. It was a matter of concern that the European Union delegation had not had the courage to analyse honestly and self-critically the human rights situation in some European Union member States.

28. **Mr. Shin** Dong-Ik (Republic of Korea) said that the ever-increasing acceptance that respect for human rights was a prerequisite for peace, security and sustainable development was particularly encouraging. The recent events in North Africa and the Middle East had reaffirmed that national governments must respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of their people to maintain their legitimacy. Despite those positive developments, there continued to be numerous instances of human rights violations around the world, and the international community had yet to respond

effectively and responsibly to issues such as poverty, armed conflict, dictatorship and discrimination.

29. It had often called for an immediate end to serious human rights violations and prompt measures to ensure accountability. His country once again urged all Governments and entities concerned to heed that urgent call. In post-crisis countries, transitional justice was essential for the long-term process of state-building. Lasting stability and true reconciliation could be achieved only through firm commitments to accountability, respect for human rights and good governance.

30. Ways should be sought to further improve the human rights situation on the ground, while guaranteeing the effective implementation of international instruments and full respect for human rights mechanisms. While accession to the various human rights instruments was strongly recommended, it was equally important for States to respect and comply with international obligations and to cooperate truly with the relevant human rights mechanisms. In that regard, his country welcomed the completion of the first cycle of the universal periodic review, with all 193 Member States having been reviewed.

31. As a vital tool for narrowing the gap between standards and the reality on the ground, the UPR should not merely amount to a general review and criticism. The real test of its effectiveness would be in the second cycle, when implementation of the recommendations and improvements in national human rights standards were evaluated. The Republic of Korea attached great importance to the UPR process and would remain strongly committed to it. A firm advocate of human rights principles, the Republic of Korea had contributed significantly to strengthening international human rights mechanisms and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to international cooperation to advance human rights and address violations around the world.

32. **Ms. Al-Raisy** (United Arab Emirates) said that her country had acceded to most human rights instruments and ratified nine International Labour Organization Conventions as well as the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Advances had been made in implementing workers' rights. An awareness-raising campaign had been conducted with the cooperation of relevant ministries to disseminate a culture of human rights, with particular emphasis on female workers and practical measures to communicate with the embassies of countries of origin.

33. The national report had been favourably received during the universal periodic review process, and the country was committed to implementing the recommendations made by the Human Rights Council, thereby bolstering its pioneering role in promoting and protecting human rights. To that end, in 2009 the Government had decided to establish a national commission for follow-up to periodic reports, involving a number of ministries and civil society organizations. The promotion of human rights as an international effort called for partnership, and the United Arab Emirates stood ready to assist any countries, particularly poor or developing countries or those in conflict situations, and assume a leading role in that effort.

34. Her country could meet immediate development needs or provide financial support for development projects and state or civil society investment in partner countries. It not only participated in international efforts to promote human rights, but also believed in the role of the Human Rights Council. As such, it had submitted its candidature for the period 2012-2015 and hoped for the support of friendly countries.

35. The Israeli occupation of Palestine and the three-year embargo imposed on Gaza were flagrant violations of international humanitarian law. The recent attacks against the flotilla bringing humanitarian assistance had been a further illustration of Israeli violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people. The United Arab Emirates insisted on the immediate lifting of the embargo, in keeping with international law, and the right of the Palestinian people to form an independent State.

36. **Mr. Rutilo** (Argentina) said that the guarantee of impunity caused by the legal and moral void in some societies was one of the main threats to human rights. The international community must send a clear message that serious violations of human rights must be investigated and punished wherever they occur. Argentina fully supported the work of Special Rapporteurs and recognized the valuable contribution of the International Criminal Court.

37. His country supported the work done by human rights defenders nationally, regionally and internationally, recognizing their vital contribution to

the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and condemned all acts that directly or indirectly hindered that work. It urged Member States to scale up efforts to adopt the requisite measures to protect the lives, personal safety and freedom of expression of human rights defenders in line with domestic legislation and with the principles of international standards.

38. Concerning discrimination, homophobia and gender-based human rights violations deserved close attention and urgent debate. Argentina opposed discrimination on all grounds and welcomed the valuable work of the special procedures mandate holders. As a pluralistic State committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination, it was actively working to punish all acts of incitement to racial, religious or national hatred. Argentina also guaranteed the right to freedom of religious expression, considering that freedom of expression was a key element of any democratic society and that its restriction could be justified only by the protection of social interests or of the inalienable rights of the individual.

39. He wished to thank the special procedures mandate holders for their reports and endorsed the valuable dialogue with a variety of experts and representatives, which had been an opportunity for productive discussions. His country, together with France and Morocco, would again be introducing a draft resolution on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance to commemorate the entry into force of that important instrument. The full implementation of the Convention would be a decisive step in the protection of human rights and the fight against impunity, and Argentina called on States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority.

40. **Mr. McLay** (New Zealand) said that within the United Nations system, it was vital to have a range of tools for the timely consideration of grave human rights situations. All States could benefit from regular engagement with periodic mechanisms like treaty bodies, special procedures and the universal periodic review, which were not only vital in providing transparent, impartial and constructive assessments and assisting States to identify priorities for action, but could also be utilized more proactively. In 2010, New Zealand had invited the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to assess its performance and was currently working through the recommendations from his visit. New Zealand encouraged other States to embrace the opportunities that those processes could provide.

41. Recent global developments had had profound implications for the enjoyment of basic human rights in many countries. Ongoing economic difficulties had undermined opportunities and access to basic services in both the developed and developing worlds, hitting the most vulnerable hardest. States and donors must do all that they could to provide essential social services and guarantee economic opportunities. Despite the tenuous financial situation, New Zealand was among those countries that had continued to increase its aid budget in 2011.

42. The Arab Spring had had significant implications for human rights. The world had been inspired by the courage and determination of the youth to assert their basic human rights. The collapse of authoritarian governments had illustrated the perils of ignoring such demands as well as the tremendous power of social media as a catalyst for overcoming repression. Those changes had opened up possibilities for a new political order based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. However, they were fraught with risk and their outcomes uncertain in the absence of control mechanisms, restrictions and rules. It was therefore crucial for transitional authorities to take special care to protect the rights of their citizens, with the full support of the international community, end impunity for past violations and meet aspirations through an inclusive, transparent political process. Only then could the promise of those revolutions be fulfilled. Governments, even those with established human rights records, would do well to learn those lessons.

43. Demands for change that were forcibly repressed had visible consequences: the deterioration of the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen had attracted concerned international attention, including that of the Security Council. Intimidation was no solution; it only pushed the regimes and their countries to the brink of disaster. Immediate steps were required to end the bloodshed, guarantee citizens' basic rights and move truly towards the long-promised but still-awaited political transition. While the current turmoil meant new challenges to the enjoyment of human rights, it also presented the opportunity to establish new rules and relationships to advance shared human rights objectives. He reaffirmed New Zealand's

long-standing commitment to those values, at home and abroad.

44. **Ms. Rasheed** (Observer for Palestine), recalling the grim assessments by United Nations officials of the grave human rights violations committed by Israel against Palestinian civilians, said that Israel was in breach of its obligations under international humanitarian law as party to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. The Israeli occupation was in no way a temporary condition, having lasted for more than four decades, and the occupying Power had paid no heed to the well-being of the Palestinians. Rather, its illegal acts and policies had taken full advantage of and had actually abused the people and its resources.

45. The countless violations ranged from the killing and maiming of Palestinian civilians to the wanton destruction of Palestinian homes and property. Cruel Israeli practices had increased poverty and deprivation in Gaza, compounded by the unlawful blockade despite widespread international condemnation. The most striking example of Israel's illegal action had been its fervent and unlawful campaign of settler colonies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. All such activity was illegal, in breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, relevant provisions of customary law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It was also the greatest obstacle to peace.

46. Settler terror and violence against Palestinian civilians had increased by more than 50 per cent in the first half 2011 as compared to all of 2010. The constant threat of violence and destruction was a real danger and would further destabilize the volatile situation on the ground. That required immediate redress by the occupying Power, which must be held fully accountable for the acts of its settlers. Palestine continued to call on the international community to act with urgency to compel Israel to halt its illegal settlement activities, abide by its obligations, and genuinely commit to the pursuit of peace.

47. In 2011, the international community had witnessed history in the making in the Arab region, with millions taking to the streets demanding freedom, democracy and respect for human rights. It had supported those calls, and even intervened to ensure the protection of civilians. Palestinians had been struggling for those very ideals for forty years, only to have had their aspirations forcefully denied and their calls for protection ignored. Palestine once again urged the international community to demand that Israel comply with its international obligations. The international community must find the resolve to demand that Israel cease [illegible] and human rights violations, thereby allowing the Palestinian people to realize their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in a State of Palestine consistent with the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

48. **Mr. Hadjimichael** (Cyprus), recalling that basic human rights and freedoms and the independence and sovereignty of Cyprus had been brutally violated by the Turkish military invasion in 1974, said that the continuing occupation of Cyprus' territory had denied Cypriots the right to peaceful coexistence for too long. The United Nations had adopted a number of resolutions in favour of Cyprus and calling on Turkey to respect its obligations under international law, which Turkey continued to flout by perpetrating massive human rights violations such as forcible division of the land based on ethnicity, mass expulsion of population groups from their homes, and denial of property rights. There had been a plethora of United Nations resolutions and rulings by the European Court of Human Rights condemning the violations and establishing Turkey's responsibility with regard to missing and displaced persons. Turkey persisted with a systematic and deliberate plan to alter the demographic composition of the island with a steady arrival of settlers in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions.

49. One of the tragedies of the invasion was the issue of missing persons, and Turkey's lack of cooperation in the return of the remains of missing persons had been recorded in reports by the Secretary-General. It was long overdue for Turkey to heed his call to adopt a more forthcoming approach. Cyprus had the highest proportion of internally displaced people (IDPs) as a percentage of its population in the world, and Greek Cypriot displaced persons continued to be deprived of their right of free access to and enjoyment of their properties.

50. There was a worrying escalation of violations of freedom of religion. Requests for conducting religious ceremonies were arbitrarily refused; churches and Christian monuments were wilfully desecrated, pillaged, destroyed, or converted into mosques. Negotiations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish

Cypriot leaders, under the good offices of the Secretary-General, had been ongoing for three years. The success of those talks was contingent on the immediate end to the continued violation of human rights in Cyprus. The Government of Cyprus aimed to restore and uphold the human rights and basic freedoms of all its citizens. For that to happen, foreign occupation must come to an end, and United Nations resolutions must be honoured, which was vital for the credibility and moral standing of the Organization.

51. **Mr. Tziras** (Greece) said that, for 37 years, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Cyprus had been violated as a result of the Turkish military invasion and, regrettably, that deplorable situation had yet to be addressed despite the many Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the issue. Greece welcomed progress made through the work of the bicommunal Committee on Missing Persons. However, most of the families of the missing remained without closure. A 2001 European Court of Human Rights ruling that Turkey had failed to investigate the fate of missing Greek Cypriots, which called on the country to address that issue, had gone unheeded.

52. Approximately 200,000 Greek Cypriots, denied their ancestral homes and the right to exercise legal property rights, were refugees in their own country, and the illegal sale of Greek Cypriot property to foreigners had exacerbated the problem. The influx of Turkish settlers in occupied areas was a violation of the Geneva Conventions. The measures recently taken to protect the educational and religious rights of enclaved Greek Cypriots had been too late. Their numbers had already fallen to 500 from the 25,000 in 1974, and they continued to be denied full protection of human rights while their cultural and religious heritage had been pillaged, damaged or destroyed. Greece fully supported the bicommunal reunification negotiations between the leaders of the two communities and looked forward to the conclusion of a viable, functional and comprehensive agreement, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the values of the European Union.

53. **Mr. Shakirov** (Kazakhstan) said that in the 20 years since independence, Kazakhstan had made built a democratic, secular State that respected the rule of law and had become part of the international community. His country had been elected to chair the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2010, which was a clear recognition of its achievements, and had submitted its candidacy to the Human Rights Council for 2012-2015 and was counting on support. Ten years on from the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action for eradicating racism and xenophobia, the phenomena of social stigmatization and blatant violations meant that the issue was still on the global agenda. With over 100 ethnic groups in Kazakhstan, much attention had been given to inter-ethnic and inter-religious harmony. Since 2003 the capital city had hosted three international congresses bringing together religious leaders and promoting peace through dialogue.

54. Significant progress had been made in human rights. The country had submitted its national report on implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Human Rights Committee had put forward 31 recommendations, which were actively being implemented. Various Special Rapporteurs had visited the country, and Kazakhstan was following up on their recommendations. Many of those recommendations had underpinned its legal policy for 2010-2020, leading to a more humane approach to penal law and judicial reform and public monitoring of the activities of government agencies.

55. There had been a significant improvement in protecting citizens' rights in judicial proceedings, including the introduction of trial by jury and juvenile courts. Gender equality measures had been taken to ensure equal opportunity and a law on mediation had been enacted. Those achievements showed that the measures to promote and protect human rights had been effective. Kazakhstan would remain committed to that process and its adaptation to current needs and international standards.

56. **Mr. Ang** Choo Pin (Singapore) said that his country supported the Chair's interim ruling, which was based on the principle that Member States representing major groupings should speak before observer delegations representing major groupings. The world was facing a long list of challenges, and peace and prosperity remained elusive. History had shown that, in turbulent times, opportunities for change could be found and political will mustered to overcome common challenges. All States had a duty to provide good governance to enable growth and meet aspirations for decent living conditions and the enjoyment of rights. However, each State charted its own course — it could not be imposed by external actors. While it was

true that how a State treated its citizens was no longer its exclusive domain, it would be fallacious to assume that other countries could effect change if the people of the State concerned were not ready or willing to change.

57. **Singapore had a pragmatic and realistic approach towards human rights**: they did not exist as a utopian ideal and could not be separated from historical, religious and socio-cultural contexts. Each State was responsible for deciding how to reconcile competing interests and rights, and change must necessarily be guided by the interests of the people, the balance of rights and obligations and the country's geographical, demographic and social constraints. What the Arab spring had shown was that real and lasting change had to emanate from within.

58. International consensus on human rights could only be found when the diversity of humankind was recognized and the free interaction of all ideas accepted. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights was in the process of drafting a declaration on human rights, which it was hoped, would contribute to a meaningful global human rights debate conducted with humility. Nothing could be gained from the forceful imposition of one region's human rights norms on another's. Unfortunately, humility was often lacking in the work of the Committee, as discourse in New York and Geneva was bogged down in domestic politics and simplistic reductionism. It was possible to do better, and it was in the interest of the international community and individuals to encourage and respect a plurality of voices and viewpoints.

59. **Ms. Thakur** (India) said that observance of human rights was at the core of any civilized society and the right to development was a fundamental component of human rights. The changing global context had necessitated a well-coordinated approach to development cooperation, and a global human rights-based partnership was the best foundation.

60. Terrorism was one of the major threats to full enjoyment of human rights, violating the most fundamental right of victims — the right to life. It was also an attack on democracy, human dignity and development. Though a Government's first responsibility was to protect its people, it must be mindful of the responsibility to protect human rights, striking a balance between effectively tackling terrorism and fully observing international law. No country was isolated from the global threat of terrorism, and a collective effort was required to ensure that the human rights debate was not abused to pursue narrow political agendas or to fulfil territorial ambitions.

61. **With regard to contract farming and its associated risks and constraints**, States did have a key role to play in protecting individuals against the risks of contract farming and ensuring the right to food of small producers and the poor. National efforts, however, must be complemented by international cooperation, which was indispensable for sharing the burdens and benefits of globalization. Reform of global economic governance was thus vital and must take into consideration the enhanced participation of developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and civil society in global decision-making to be more conducive to equitable and sustainable development respectful of human rights. A number of countries owed more than 50 per cent of their total debt to export credit agencies, which often aggravated the sovereign debt liability of Governments and had serious consequences on sustainable development. A concerted international effort was therefore necessary to consider the unintended ramifications of actions.

62. India thanked the Secretary-General for his country-specific reports including a report on the human rights situation in Myanmar and welcomed its neighbour's ongoing efforts at political, economic and social reform as well as its convening of the National Parliament and elected assemblies. India stood ready to share its parliamentary experiences — it had invited the Speaker of the Lower House of Myanmar's Parliament to lead a delegation in December 2011 and the Prime Minister had offered all necessary assistance in strengthening the transition to democracy.

63. India's democratic, pluralistic and secular polity, its independent judiciary, media and human rights institutions and vibrant civil society illustrated its success in effectively guaranteeing the protection and promotion of human rights. As the world's largest democracy, India considered it an honour to uphold the values of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and would never cease to do so.

64. **Mr. Starčević** (Serbia) said that no country had a perfect record of protection and promotion of human rights. Since the democratic changes in 2000, Serbia

had been undergoing comprehensive legislative and institutional reforms, particularly in the field of human and minority rights, with palpable results. He wished to draw the Committee's attention once again to the deteriorating human rights situation in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija. There were still significant problems and limited progress with regard to the rights of Serbian and non-Albanian populations, particularly with respect to the return of displaced persons and the protection of returnees. The unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo in 2008 further diminished the possibilities for substantial improvement of human rights.

65. Statistics showed that of the 250,000 Serbs, Roma and non-Albanians forced to leave Kosovo in 1999, less than 10 per cent had returned, and many of those who did return home often faced administrative obstacles and obstructions to property return and hostility from local populations. Of the 437 communities formerly inhabited by Serbs, 312 had been ethnically cleansed. In the 12 years that Kosovo had been under United Nations administration, there had been 7,000 registered physical attacks, in which 1,037 Kosovo Serbs and non-Albanians had been killed and 1,818 severely injured. The perpetrators of ethnically motivated crimes were rarely, if ever, brought to justice, and any investigations instituted were usually abandoned for lack of evidence.

66. There was an overall culture of impunity for war crimes or organized crime. A weak and inefficient witness protection system resulted in intimidation and harassment, and sometimes the murder or suspicious deaths of witnesses in cases against important figures. He quoted extensively from a report describing the problem that had been submitted to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in January 2011. Those were some of the most grievous examples of systematic human rights violations to which non-Albanians were subjected; and there were many other examples of breaches of their economic, social and cultural rights which could be found in numerous reports submitted by the Secretary-General and prominent international organizations.

67. Of major concern to his Government was the Council of Europe report entitled "Inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo", submitted by the Rapporteur Mr. Dick Marty, which contained serious allegations of unprecedented crimes occurring during and after the conflict in 1999. That report, which had mentioned violations including abductions, torture, forced surgery and removal of the internal organs of murdered abductees for sale on the international black market, prompted one by former Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Mr. Philip Alston. It had been obvious from those reports that severe abuses had occurred and should be criminally investigated and that there had been a deliberate lack of cooperation from the Albanian authorities.

68. The Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor had instituted pre-trial proceedings, but requests for cooperation with their Albanian counterparts had gone unanswered. Subsequent to approval of the Marty report, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) had expressed its readiness to investigate the allegations therein and prosecute the perpetrators. Preliminary investigations had borne little concrete results owing to an inadequate witness protection programme and the fact that the special investigation team had only recently become operational.

69. Despite that, the Serbian Government welcomed the role of EULEX and stood ready to cooperate with the investigation team. EULEX, however, had neither the mandate nor the jurisdiction to conduct a comprehensive investigation. The lack of cooperation called for a firm legal basis for the investigation and prosecution of the crimes: that was where the role of the United Nations was crucial. The issue of trafficking in organs needed further clarification and, given the seriousness of the allegations in the Marty report, should not be regarded solely as a Serbian problem, but as a global concern.

70. The proper investigation of organ trafficking was part of the bigger issue of discovering the fate of those who had gone missing, and Serbia was convinced that that was an important part of the reconciliation process between Belgrade and Priština. Several rounds of talks had begun to bear fruit before unilateral provocation by Priština had interrupted the dialogue and worsened the security situation for the population in the north of Kosovo. He reaffirmed Serbia's commitment to resolving all outstanding issues through genuine dialogue and a spirit of compromise, which was the only way to achieve sustainable solutions.

71. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) wished to voice his country's reservation to the approach taken by the Special Rapporteur on the right to health in his report

(A/66/254), where the issue of abortion had been arbitrarily addressed. Other reports had also given undue weight to issues that were not universally accepted rights, and those efforts might be construed as deliberate attempts to shift focus from more serious human rights issues.

72. The Constitution of Bangladesh, embodying the principles and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, guaranteed the fundamental rights of all citizens and had special provisions to ensure the rights of women, children and minorities. The Declaration on the Right to Development was of high priority to his Government, which deemed that human rights and development should go hand in hand in order to achieve success. The right to development should be viewed as a human right. Bangladesh was party to all the universal human rights instruments — a testimony to its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights — and regularly reviewed domestic legislation to bring it in line with the various instruments.

73. In August, Bangladesh had ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Migrants were valuable for countries of origin and destination, and any measure to discriminate against or stigmatize them would have negative effects on society in the long run. His country complied with treaty body reporting obligations and had been a member of the Human Rights Council since 2006, where it remained engaged in constructive dialogue with the international community. There was still much to be done to guarantee fundamental human rights for all, and the importance of human rights education could not be overemphasized. Nevertheless, despite the many challenges facing it, including limited resources and capacity, Bangladesh was committed to protecting and promoting human rights.

74. **Ms. Salman** (Malaysia) said that Malaysia had a holistic approach to human rights and believed that all countries must promote and protect them while respecting national and regional particularities and cultural, social or political circumstances. In an increasingly globalized world of shared values, it was important to ensure that all rights — not only civil and political, but also economic, social and cultural rights — were enjoyed by all. The current international trend of politicizing human rights had not served their cause.

75. The promotion and protection of all human rights had been a fundamental principle since Malaysia had become a sovereign nation, and the Constitution guaranteed the basic human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration. As a racially and religiously diverse society, Malaysia had to ensure that individual rights did not impinge upon community rights, and tolerance was crucial to maintaining the unity in diversity that had always been the country's strength.

76. Specific human rights legislation such as the Child Act 2001 and the Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 had been enacted in the country's legal framework as part of efforts to promote and protect human rights and to comply with international instruments in that area. In 2010, Malaysia had withdrawn reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2011, the Government had agreed to accede to the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and was examining the possibility of acceding to various other international human rights instruments by establishing specific technical subcommittees.

77. Further demonstration of the country's commitment was the establishment in 1999 of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, an independent body empowered to investigate complaints of human rights violations and mandated to raise awareness of human rights through education. Malaysia recognized the right to development, but believed that the purpose of development was to create an environment enabling all citizens to enjoy long, healthy lives. Economic growth alone could not guarantee social harmony.

78. In September, the Prime Minister had announced the abolition of the controversial Internal Security Act, which had aimed to prevent subversion and organized violence through preventive detention. Two new laws would be drafted to replace it and would aim to maintain peace and well-being on a par with other modern and progressive democracies. Malaysia was committed to attaining the lofty goal of high human rights standards for all and was ready to work constructively with other Member States.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

79. **Mr. Butt** (Pakistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Pakistan attached great importance to the promotion and protection of all human rights. That was evidenced by it's being a State party to seven core instruments and by its regional, national and global efforts to protect human rights, which had been detailed in an earlier statement. Pakistan was constrained to reply to unwarranted remarks concerning the blasphemy law in the country — a law that had been written under the British Raj to ensure inter-faith peace. There had been a minor amendment during the 1980s, and the matter was under cognizance of the Parliament of Pakistan. Any attempt to use it to stir up conflict amounted to needless baiting, which everyone could do without.

80. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that certain Member States conducted virulent campaigns in the name of protecting civil and human rights, but would not admit that there were armed terrorist groups in the Syrian Arab Republic. Those States were themselves on black lists when it came to human rights — everyone had heard about human rights violations and massacres in Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Algeria and former African colonies; the torture and degrading treatment in Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo. His country was at the centre of an explosive region as a result of colonial policies and Israeli occupation and had also suffered political social and economic problems.

81. While certain countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America might give advice, the Western powers had no lessons to impart to his Government. They themselves had invented new ways of violating human rights law. The United States needed to stop giving lessons — it was already isolated within the United Nations as 186 countries had voted against its blockade of Cuba. Norway had no colonial history, so he urged that country not to pander to colonial powers' manoeuvres or fall into the trap of politicizing human rights. Europe had been behind black slavery and its human rights record was far from glorious. It currently violated the rights of Romas and of Muslims, who had to pray in garages because there were no mosques in European capitals. The European Union pillaged resources in developing countries and was not there to promote rights, but to violate them.

82. **Ms. Alkhalifa** (Bahrain) thanked the European Union for its understanding of the serious and positive measures taken by the Government, notably the establishment of the independent commission of inquiry. She wished to reaffirm that the hopes expressed that the commission's findings would meet the needs of the people was one of the Government's priorities. It had been given complete freedom to interrogate anyone without interference. With regard to the prosecution of perpetrators, she reminded the representative of the European Union of the Prosecutor's decision to hand perpetrators over to civilian courts, which should allay any doubts as to the legality of the procedures. That had been welcomed by the Secretary-General and experts alike.

83. The Government would pursue national reconciliation in accordance with the Constitution and international instruments. It had been emphasized that there had been a series of violations against opposition leaders and calls for investigation. The Government had taken every possible measure, without any external request to do so, that would ensure respect for human rights commitments. All measures had aimed to protect the rights of the accused and to further reconciliation.

84. **Ms. Camino** (Cuba) said that she had listened to the representative of the United States of America reel off a long list of countries of the South where human rights were allegedly violated. The United States had no moral grounds for judging Cuba, particularly as it had been responsible for grave human rights violations such as secret CIA flights on which abducted prisoners were tortured and the atrocities perpetrated in Guantánamo, Cuban territory that was illegally occupied by that country.

85. Cuba defended the right of all to hold peaceful demonstrations and protected human rights defenders in accordance with the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. The campaign against Cuba resorted to political manipulation in which facts were distorted, fake scenarios were mounted for the media multinationals and protection was given to anti-Cuban terrorists. No one had ever been or would ever be arrested or persecuted in Cuba for peacefully expressing opinions or exercising their right to freedom of association — rights that were enshrined in Cuba's Constitution and upheld by international law.

86. The United States had lied when it had said that the citizen detained was a USAid worker who had

simply tried to contact the Jewish community. He had been on a covert operation and had committed crimes that were also punishable under United States law. The economic embargo against Cuba was the main obstacle to the full enjoyment of human rights for all Cubans and the General Assembly had shown support for Cuba by recommending that the embargo should be lifted.

87. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji) reiterated Fiji's unwavering commitment to fulfilling in good faith its obligations under the Charter, based on the fundamental principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in domestic matters. Fiji would hold free and fair general elections in 2014 — for the first time in the nation's history without regard to race. At a recent high-level meeting, leaders from 12 Pacific countries had signed a communiqué reaffirming Fiji's Strategic Framework for Change and Roadmap as a credible home-grown process for repositioning Fiji as a modern nation State. The Roadmap provided for the drafting of a new constitution to do away with the divisive racial categorization of former constitutions and was a determined move to create a society based on real equality and justice, respect for the dignity of all and a sustainable democracy. Fiji gratefully acknowledged the many offers of assistance from the international community to achieve the Roadmap goals.

88. Recognizing that it was Fiji's responsibility to devise and deliver its own version of sustainable democracy, he admitted that there would be waypoints when Fiji could benefit from those offers of assistance. Fiji trusted that its trading and development partners, old and new, would provide the understanding and assistance needed to ensure that true and sustainable democracy could take root. His country had taken heart from recent assurances of support.

89. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that his country was more than aware of the need to pursue the political reconciliation process, and the Government was doing just that. It had thus established the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Committee with a broad mandate to examine all aspects of the conflict. It had been set up less than 18 months after the conflict, bringing to an end a dark era of endless terrorist violence. Its report was expected in mid-November 2011, and the Government had confirmed that it would be submitted to the Parliament, so that implementation would have broad support.

90. To continue to call for an independent investigation smacked of paternalistic condescension and was inconsistent with the established principles of international law, which required a sovereign State to deal with human rights infractions itself. Sri Lanka was fully conscious of the need to comply with that requirement. As to the panel of experts set up by the Secretary-General, it had been repeatedly stated that the Government did not consider the panel's report to be fair, equitable or consistent with established fact; many academics saw it as seriously flawed. It was mystifying what underlying sources of conflict remained in Sri Lanka, and it was difficult to address such allegations unless they were described more coherently.

91. The Government had taken a range of measures: the resettlement of approximately 300,000 displaced persons, the rehabilitation and return of some 10,000 former combatants and approximately 600 child soldiers, and the expenditure of billions of dollars to restore the economy, all in a mere 30 months. Sri Lanka would continue to do what was necessary to restore peace and prosperity and what was best for its future. It was unfortunate that domestic political imperatives continued to drive a selective and discriminatory application of international standards, which led to diluted respect for those standards.

92. **Mr. Jang** Il Hun (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation totally rejected the politically motivated and groundless allegations made by the European Union, the United States, Japan and some other Western countries. Those allegations had nothing to do with the genuine protection and promotion of human rights, as none of those violations had occurred in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

93. It was well known that the United States was a hotbed of human rights violations. Rampant under the Statue of Liberty were violent crimes, racial and sexual discrimination, torture and maltreatment of minorities. The United States had also killed hundreds of thousands of innocents abroad under the guise of a war on terror. The European Union was joining the United States in an attempt to bring pressure to bear on his country in the name of human rights and had no moral authority to criticize the human rights situation there. Instead of naming and shaming other countries, it would do well to examine the poor human rights

record, marred by violence, discrimination and other infringements, of its own member States.

94. With regard to the draft resolution against his country referred to by the European Union, his Government had stated repeatedly that it was totally unacceptable and that it would not succumb to that pressure. His delegation also rejected the preposterous allegations by Japan concerning abductions. That issue had been completely resolved as a result of sincere efforts to implement the 2002 Pyongyang Declaration. If there were any abduction cases to be discussed, those would concern the 8.4 million Koreans forcefully abducted by Japan during its 40-odd year military occupation of his country. Japan should make up for its crime-ridden past. Its fuss over the abduction issue was to divert public opinion from its responsibility to apologize to and compensate the victims of its crimes against humanity.

95. **Mr. Budak** (Turkey) said that, since the accusations by the representative of Greece were misleading, he had no choice but to refresh his colleague's memory with regard to the dates of the conflict. If, indeed, Turkey had decided to invade and occupy Cyprus unprovoked in 1974, one would wonder why the United Nations had deployed peacekeeping forces on the island as early as 1964 to stop attacks by Greek Cypriots against Turkish Cypriots. The Greek Cypriot policy of intimidation and forced expulsion was still vividly remembered. Some 180,000 Turkish Cypriots had been forced to live in enclaves covering only 3 per cent of the island.

96. The representative of Greece had conveniently failed to mention the notorious ethnic cleansing plan drafted by the Greek Cypriot leadership at the time to deprive Turkish Cypriots of their constitutional safeguards and subjugate them through reunification with Greece — in other words, the aim had been to hijack the State of Cyprus. It should also be remembered that an objective of the 1974 coup instigated by the military regime in Greece had been to annex Cyprus. It was to counter that coup that Turkey had finally intervened, after an eleven-year wait, as a guarantor Power acting within its rights under a 1960 agreement to prevent the annexation of the island. The Turkish intervention had not been the beginning of the problem, but an inevitable consequence after nearly 20 years of acts of provocation perpetrated by the Greek Cypriots.

97. Turkish Cypriots currently lived in unacceptable isolation imposed by the so-called recognized State. The human rights of Turkish Cypriots were being violated at that very moment by numerous harsh restrictions imposed by the Greek Cypriots. It was hoped that the international community would give full support to Turkish Cypriots by engaging in direct commercial, social and cultural contact with them without further delay. Turkey was ready to look ahead and it had encouraged Turkish Cypriots to vote in favour of the 2004 European settlement plan. In keeping with its constructive stance, it had encouraged both sides to come to a fair and lasting agreement as early as possible on the basis of the well-established United Nations parameters in that regard.

98. The according of equal status to the two peoples and the continuation of Turkey's effective guarantee would constitute the basis for the solution. The halting of the isolation of Turkish Cypriots and the ensuring of equal treatment of both sides by the international community would surely contribute to reaching a comprehensive settlement, to which Turkey was committed.

99. **Mr. Kodama** (Japan), referring to the previous statement by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, that the issue of the abduction of Japanese citizens had been resolved, said that his delegation wished to set the record straight so that the Committee could fully appreciate the gravity of the outstanding issue of abduction and not be misled by that statement. In 2004, when the then Japanese Prime Minister had made his second visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the latter had agreed that all five members of the families of the abducted victims could return to Japan and that it would promptly start a new investigation to provide a thorough report on the abductees, whose safety was in question.

100. However, at subsequent working-level consultations between the two parties, no concrete evidence had been provided. In August 2008, both sides had agreed on the overall objectives and concrete modalities of the abduction investigation at bilateral working meetings, only for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to inform Japan subsequently of the suspension of investigations. Since that sudden announcement, Japan had had no further information, and no action had been taken by that country.

101. Japan urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to move forward and make good on its promise by commencing the investigation without delay. He would appreciate the understanding and support of all delegates in resolving the abduction issue. With regard to Japan's past, the figures presented were completely groundless. Japan had been facing up to its past with sincerity and consistency since the end of the Second World War. For more than 60 years, it had consistently dedicated itself to promoting international peace and prosperity and demonstrating its respect for democracy and human rights.

102. **Mr. Jang** Il Hun (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said his delegation once again rejected yet another distorted and misleading statement by Japan. As he had mentioned earlier, his country had faithfully implemented all the agreements. All survivors had returned home, and all information concerning the deceased had been conveyed to Japan. His Government had done all that it could, but what had Japan done? There had been no mention of Japan's role in the agreement. In fact, it had gone against all the agreements, and so nothing more remained to be done. Concerning the past, the representative of Japan had said that the numbers cited were unsubstantiated, but it was a historical fact that Japan had committed grave crimes against humanity.

103. **Mr. Kodama** (Japan) said that his delegation could not accept the position put forward by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning the issue of the abductions and Japan's past.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.